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National Institute of Justice

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20531

REMARKS
OF

NCJRS

SEP 15 1989

ACQUISITIONS

THE HONORABLE JAMES K. STEWART, DIRECTOR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

BEFORE

THE 4TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

SPONSORED BY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

AND

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

9:15 A.M.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1989
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

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James K. Stewart, Director of the National Institute of Justice, regrets that he is unable to join you for this informative symposium on organized crime and international terrorism. He has asked me to summarize the remarks he intended to give.

The National Institute of Justice once again is pleased to cosponsor -- along with the Office of International Criminal Justice of the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the United Nations' Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice branch -- this Fourth Annual International Symposium on Criminal Justice Issues on organized crime and international terrorism. UI at Chicago deserves credit and our thanks for coordinating and cosponsoring these important meetings.

In their brief history these annual conferences have become key dates on the calendars of criminal justice administrators, practitioners, academicians, and researchers both here and abroad.

Policy relevant research is NIJ's mission -- research that gives criminal justice administrators and practitioners information that helps clarify policy options. NIJ's mandate is to support criminal justice research on issues of national importance. However, over the past several years, we have begun international information exchanges on a variety of criminal justice topics. We are also benefiting from the international perspective of a new NIJ Visiting Fellow Ernesto Savona -- from the University of Trento School of Law in Italy. Professor

Savona, an expert in criminology and organized crime, also serves as a Consultant to the United Nations Social Defense Research Institute in Rome.

For example, NIJ has had contacts on drug trafficking research and policy issues with such countries as England, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia. NIJ staff has also attended UN Conferences on International Drug Trafficking, where they supported the U.S. delegation; and we continue to collaborate with Federal agencies that have an international mandate in these areas. We also hope to continue to see increased international cooperation in the sharing of research and programs.

When we talk about international drug trafficking, increasingly we are talking about the terrorism and violence that accompany it. Money laundering is also an important element. State and local law enforcement agencies have been less prominent than the Federal government in going after money laundering, in part because of the international scale of some operators' activities. However, NIJ research on this topic has concluded that our local criminal justice agencies can and must do more to combat money-laundering.

We also are working to help state and local authorities prevent or respond to terrorist incidents. For example, NIJ launched research to better understand hostage negotiations and to provide practitioners with the tools they need when they are initially confronted with a hostage situation. We expect the

study to produce profiles of hostage-takers based on social, psychiatric, psychological and behavioral factors. With these profiles, trained law enforcement negotiators will be better able to understand hostage takers in specific terrorist incidents so that they can select the most potentially successful strategies and techniques both before and during the negotiation.

A key to controlling international crimes is improving cooperation and agreements among nations. To help achieve these goals, Attorney General Dick Thornburgh recently announced plans to seek congressional approval to establish an Office of International Affairs within the U.S. Department of Justice. The establishment of the office would ensure that international threats -- including drug trafficking, money laundering, international organized crime and business fraud, environmental depredations, terrorism, and espionage -- are given the priority and attention they deserve.

Mr. Thornburgh, in his first year in office, has met with three dozen of his international counterparts in law enforcement to ensure that Justice's efforts are focused on common targets. The Justice Department currently is involved in cooperative international law enforcement efforts which include participation in the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC), and the cooperative international effort to combat terrorism (TREVI). Efforts are also ongoing to cooperate with Central and South American nations to address the problems of coca cultivation and processing and the international smuggling of cocaine. In

addition, the Attorney General was a key participant in the drafting of the UN convention to combat worldwide drug trafficking -- a commitment by more than 100 nations to combine forces in dealing with the problem of illegal drugs.

Mr. Thornburgh has said that the proposed International Affairs Office within the Office of the Attorney General would have responsibility for coordinating not only the Justice Department's international cooperative efforts but for coordinating them with the efforts of all other federal agencies.

NIJ has also recognized the need for improved international legal cooperation in criminal justice matters in recent years. Terrorism, in particular, is a global phenomenon and it demands an international, coordinated response.

As travel from country to country gets easier -- particularly with the European Economic Community relaxing its international travel barriers in 1992 -- fugitives from justice may experience greater mobility in avoiding apprehension, and terrorists and drug traffickers may more easily avoid detection.

In June, 1988 NIJ sponsored a conference at Harvard University of distinguished senior government officials and scholars from the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland. The conference explored ways to make it easier to prosecute terrorist suspects in the country where they are captured for the crimes allegedly committed in another country by working out conflicts or incompatibilities between

civil and criminal laws; and refining extradition treaties.

The Institute also is involved in technical research designed to do the same thing. NIJ and the FBI have collaborated on the violent criminal apprehension program (VICAP) -- a national data center designed to help police identify violent criminals, such as serial murderers, who move from place to place. This kind of technology could be very helpful to police internationally, as well as domestically, in identifying and tracking terrorists, too.

The FBI and NIJ believe that their jointly-developed VICAP system can serve as the basis for exchanging homicide related information across national boundaries. Common data regarding serial murders, narcotics-related homicides and terrorist assassinations could be computerized and made available instantly to international law enforcement authorities. We are working with the FBI to co-sponsor a second international Homicide Investigation and Prosecution Conference to be held in May 1990. The first such conference brought together 150 practitioners in the field of homicide from every state and 12 foreign countries. It focused on mutual investigative problems and the need for a common reporting system.

The new symposium will serve as a forum for updating investigators on other issues including DNA technology, integrated case management, and political and legal constraints to cooperation.

In addition to VICAP, we need an international system and

and an international database to coordinate efforts among countries. We need teamwork -- between local agencies, between states, and between countries -- to hunt down terrorists, drug traffickers, and other international criminals.

The United States is making new inroads in its fight against international terrorism. Our strategic intelligence capabilities have never been more effective, and Congress has given impetus to law enforcement efforts to combat terrorism. International cooperation is even more critical as drug trafficking and terrorism become increasingly paired -- as we see in the tragic situation of Colombia.

White collar and organized crime are other high priorities for the Department of Justice and NIJ. These increased operational and research initiatives are particularly important because the complexity and covert nature of these crimes pose special difficulties for their prevention and control.

Today, some of the most harmful of these crimes have reached critical proportions, contributing to our Nation's most serious economic and social problems and severely draining criminal justice and public resources. The huge profits available from illegal drug trafficking have led to the emergence of violent and sophisticated criminal organizations and networks whose wealth and power have become so great that they defy conventional methods of interdiction and control. The President's Commission on Organized Crime found narcotics

trafficking to be "the most widespread and lucrative organized crime activity in the United States, producing annual revenues of at least 10 billion dollars, more than twice the amount spent for all criminal justice services at all levels of our Nation's government."

NIJ hopes to focus research on ways to combat drug abuse by increasing the state of knowledge about major drug trafficking groups and operations and by developing strategies for improved detection, interdiction, and control. Not only are these organized criminal syndicates responsible for the "supply side" of the drug abuse problem and all of the social dysfunctions it produces, but they also corrupt legitimate institutions and undermine public respect for government and law. Yet the wealth and power of these groups and their sophisticated organization resources make them particularly resistant to law enforcement controls, creating a need for special research attention.

NIJ also hopes to increase criminal justice capabilities for proactive organized crime enforcement operations by developing and promoting the adoption of effective techniques for intelligence data collection and analysis that can be accomplished within the limited resources available to state and local agencies. Once these techniques are developed, they can possibly be used worldwide in international efforts to eradicate organized crime.

The international attendance at this conference underscores the monumental task we face in stemming organized crime and

terrorism. My best wishes are with you as you explore solutions to these major law enforcement problems.